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Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EUR-08 IO-03 NSC-05

SP-02 L-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 PM-03 DHA-02

ARA-06 DODE-00 OMB-01 /056 W
---------- 124474
O R 131407Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3646
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1805

LIMDIS

KINSHASA FOR ASST SECTY SCHAUFELE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, WA, SF, UK, TZ
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BRITISH EFFORTS TO INVOLVE SWAPO IN TURNHALLE CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MILES AND FCO SPECIAL REP MARTIN REITH CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JULY 12 AND LEFT COPIES OF TWO OF REITH'S MESSAGES TO FCO DELINEATING STATE OF PLAY OF BRITISH EFFORTS TO INVOLVE SWAPO IN SOME MANNER IN NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. MESSAGES SUMMARIZED BELOW INDICATE BRITISH FEEL MISLED BY TANZANIANS OR NUJOMA ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR SOME BREAK-THROUGH ON NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE TALKS. NEXT STEP WILL BE MEETING JULY 13 OR 14 BETWEEN HICOM MILES HERE AND TANZANIAN FONMIN KADUMA WHO IN LUSAKA, WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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CEREMONIAL HAND-OVER OF TARZA RAILWAY. BRITISH INDICATED

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THEY MAY DECIDE IN CURRENT IMPASSE TO WITHDRAW AND LEAVE MATTER MAINLY TO TANZANIA AND TO LESSER EXTENT ZAMBIANS IF NUJOMA'S POSITION IS TO BE MODERATED. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING VISITS TO NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICAN MARTIN REITH, SPECIAL FCO REP VISITED LUSAKA ON A SPECIAL MISSION TO ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE SWAPO IN SOME MANNER IN NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS. HE REPORTED TO LONDON JULY 8 THAT NUJOMA UNWILLING TO BUDGE FROM TRADITIONAL SWAPO POSITION OF NEGOTIATING ONLY WITH SAG. NUJOMA INSISTED TURNHALLE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS JOIN SWAPO; IF NOT, SAG MUST TALK DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO OR U.N. COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA. NUJOMA NOT SWAYED BY REITH'S DELIVERY OF MESSAGE FROM DANIEL TJONGARERO THAT INTERNAL SWAPO, WHILE LEAVING FINAL DECISION TO NUJOMA, FAVORED EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION BETWEEN SWAPO AND TURNHALLE CONFEREES TO ESTABLISH COMMON FRONT. NUJOMA ALSO UNMOVED BY REITH'S ARGUMENTS POINTING OUT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HAZARDS OF PURSUING A MILITARY SOLUTION. WHEN NUJOMA REMAINED ADAMANT, REITH CONCLUDED THAT HE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL FOR SHARING POWER NOW SINCE BY WAITING HE MAY GET ALL THE POWER. REITH BELIEVES MPLA, CUBANS AND COMMUNIST EMBASSIES IN LUSAKA INFLUENCING NUJOMA'S STAND.

2. UK HICOM DAR PASSED TO MILES HERE HIS ASSESSMENT THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE MAY BELIEVE NUJOMA "WILL COME AROUND". HOWEVER, REITH STILL HARBORS DOUBTS AND WONDERS IF (A) TANZANIANS GOT THE BRITISH WORKING PROPOSAL ALL WRONG, NOT UNDERSTANDING FULLY COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED; (B) TANZANIANS MISLED BRITISH; (C) NUJOMA WENT BACK ON HIS WORD TO TANZANIANS.

3. IN ATTEMPT TO SORT THIS OUT HICOM MILES HAS REQUESTED AND OBTAINED APPOINTMENT FOR MEETING WITH TANZANIAN FONMIN KADUMA IN LUSAKA DURING CEREMONIES JULY 13-14 IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRANSFER OF TAZARA RAILWAY TO ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA. IN THE INTERIM, REITH RECOMMENDED TO FCO "NOTHING BE SAID AT THIS STAGE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS OR OTHERS IN NAMIBIA ABOUT NUJOMA'S RESPONSE."

4. AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONIES FOR VISITING PRESIDENTS MORNING
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JULY 14 MILES PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO LISTEN WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT COMMENT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE CERTAIN POINTS.
WILKOWSKI

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